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FOOD INFORMATION CALENDAR

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August 24, 1945 No. 125

SECRETARY ANDERSON ON FULL EMPLOYMENT. . . .In testifying August 23 on the proposed Full Employment Act of 1945 before the Senate Banking and Currency Committee, Secretary Anderson said: "This bill is of vital and far-reaching significance to all segments of our economy, including agriculture. . . .That farm prosperity or depression is closely linked to the condition of the whole economy is demonstrated by the relationship between farmers' income and the level of employment from 1929 to 1944. When unemployment rose to almost 14 million workers in 1932 and 1933, net farm income dropped to less than 3 billion dollars--the lowest level since farm income records were begun in 1910. When unemployment fell to less than a million people in 1943, net farm income climbed to 14 billion dollars--an all-time high. . . ."

"The fact that full employment stimulates the demand for farm products, and thus tends to maintain farm income, is not the only way in which prosperity throughout the economy aids in bringing prosperity to agriculture. A full employment economy affords needed non-farm job opportunities to rural youth, and to hundreds of thousands of small farm operators who have such inadequate farm units that it is virtually impossible for them to produce enough to maintain a decent level of living.

"For some time we have had working in the Department a Post-war Committee--one of whose main tasks is to outline methods for insuring full employment in agriculture in the post-war period. If the full employment bill is passed, as I hope it will be, it is my intention to expand this work so that we shall be ready with a full and detailed program for agriculture," the Secretary stated in conclusion.

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BOLL WEEVILS ON THE RAMPAGE. . . .The cool, rainy weather during July was very good--for weevils--and there are now enough of them to cause serious damage regardless of weather conditions during the remainder of the season. Growers should be advised to dust their cotton with calcium arsenate to save the bolls that have been set. When weevils are as numerous as they are this year, late applications of calcium arsenate for boll protection are reported to be as profitable as early applications. Thousands of bales of cotton can be saved by dusting with 2 to 4 applications of calcium arsenate, at intervals of about 5 days, during August or until the bolls harden and are safe from weevil damage. Ample supplies of calcium arsenate are available.

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THE TRUTH ABOUT DDT. . . .A 10-page statement is now available on the use of DDT by civilians. It was prepared to help answer inquiries and to avoid confusion as to the results to be expected from the use of DDT by civilians. Copies of the statement can be obtained from the Office of Information.

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AL BOND LEAVES FOR KIRO. . . .USDA'S Field Supervisor of Radio, Al Bond, has accepted the position of Farm Programs Director for Station KIRO in Seattle as of about September 1. Al was formerly Extension Editor at Washington State University.

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FACT SHEETS ON AVAILABLE FRUITS. . . .Three fact sheets on fruit--pears, fresh prunes, and fruit in general--have been prepared and distributed to USDA field offices and other information outlets. Peaches are the only fruit in national abundance this year for home-canning on a large scale, and much of the crop already has been marketed. West Coast pear production is very heavy, and Southern production is above average. The California grape crop, one of the major sources of this fruit, this year is estimated to be 18 percent above the 1934-43, average, while eastern or Concord-type grapes will be very short. The fresh prune crop in the three Northwestern States in which they normally are produced is expected to be a third larger than the 10-year average, and the plum crop is above the 10-year average. On the other hand apples, which usually vie with oranges for first place among fruit crops in the United States, this year will amount to slightly more than half of last year's crop, which was slightly above the 10-year average, and apricot production is way down from last year and below the 10-year average.

In spite of the end of the war, Americans are urged to make the best use of such fruits as are available for home processing and for eating fresh. Even though commercially processed fruits are now unrationed, supplies are expected to be considerably short of demand. Consumers will need to make the best possible use of such fruits as are available locally, supplementing them with what fruits can be shipped in from other sections.

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USDA RELEASES OF SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE. . . .Boll weevil situation critical--1561; Beef, veal, and ham set-aside orders suspended--1562; New cotton fabric resists mildew and rot--1563; Fluid milk sales quotas suspended--1566; New research sheets tell how science serves agriculture--1568; Suggestions regarding the use of DDT by civilians--1574; The world sugar situation--1581; REA construction expanding--1583; Agriculture's need for full employment--Secretary Anderson on S-380--1584; The outlook for feed grain supplies --1588; Food Outlook--Secretary Anderson over NBC, August 23--1593.

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OTHER RELEASES OF AGRICULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE. . . .Surplus Property Board allocates 142 additional trucks to farm areas in California, Colorado, and Idaho--OWI-4848; Grower price of $60 per ton for freestone peaches--OWI-4842; Tires to be rationed on basis of occupational driving needs--OPA-5827; Consolidated operation for slaughterers having two or more slaughtering establishments--OPA-5822; Ceiling prices of fresh apples increased as of August 20-OPA-5863; 1945 ceiling prices for fresh Italian prunes will be same as for 1944 crop--OPA-T-3584; Rationing of all farm-implement and industrial type tires will end at midnight August 20, 1945--OPA-5833.

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TIMELY FARM TOPICS. . . .On August 28 another Timely Farm Topics Platter will be cut. One side will contain a report on the Third Inter-American Conference on Agriculture at Caracas by L. A. Wheeler, Director of OFAR, entitled "International Cooperation in Agriculture." The other side of the platter will contain a discussion of the outlook for farm machinery and equipment in 1946. It will be voiced by Fred B. Northrup, Director of the Materials and Equipment Branch of the Production and Marketing Administration.

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POTATOES A THREE-MONTH PROBLEM. . . .Potatoes are expected to be a marketing problem for the next three months. "Intermediates" (now being harvested), while they keep better than early potatoes, are not good for winter storage, and before they are gone, late potatoes will be coming to market. A bumper commercial crop--third largest on record--and increased home garden production, displacing demand for the commercial crop, have brought potato prices down to support levels practically all over the country. The United States is expected to have 25 million bushels more than necessary to provide the 125-pound average per capita consumption. Retail prices are reasonable and quality is good. To meet the marketing problem, the following steps are being taken:

1. A promotional campaign is under way to encourage greater consumption now during the period of harvesting.

2. USDA is buying potatoes for school lunch programs and for direct distribution to institutions.

3. Dehydration plants are working at or near capacity, except for a few that are waiting for materials. Canning also is encouraged.

4. Approximately 1,200 cars will be placed in cold storage for from six weeks to two months--about 1,000 cars going to the Atchison, Kansas, cave.

5. The Armed Forces are cooperating by serving more potatoes--especially now that personnel can eat at established camps.

6. Every consideration is being given to use of potatoes for food before they are diverted to non-human food uses. But, to the extent consumers do not increase consumption, potatoes will be diverted into starch and by-products, alcohol and glucose.

7. A few cars have been donated to USDA Experiment Stations for use in livestock feeding experiments, and authorization for diversion to livestock feed has been made for the State of Washington.

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RECENT SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENTS. . . .Important Recent Achievements of Department of Agriculture Scientists are summarized in Report No. 6 (revised 8/1/45). The latest news on insect repellents, protection of fabrics from fungi and insects; breeding for better-keeping eggs, DDT applications with flying spray gun, the small-type turkey, and dehydrating food, are a few of the 59 achievements discussed in 29 pages. The report is available on request to the Office of Information.

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YOUR HOME AND GARDEN SHOW. . . .Charles E. Kellogg, Chief, Division of Soil Survey, BPISAE, will appear as the guest of Ernie Moore and Duke DuMars on Your Home and Garden show, September 1, in a discussion of compost. Ruth Van Deman will have news of special interest to housewives on her part of the show. The time--12:30 p.m., EWT, over ABC.

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THE FOOD OUTLOOK FOR CIVILIANS was summarized by Secretary Anderson August 23 on NBC. Civilians can expect more meat, milk and milk products, canned fruits, vegetables, and fruit juices; canned fish, and chicken, because of lowered military requirements and anticipated production of these items this year. How soon rationing of meat can be ended, however, will depend largely upon the number of cattle marketed this fall. Civilians need not expect more turkeys this fall, and sugar, fats and oils will remain scarce. "Fat salvage is just as important now as it was during the war," the Secretary emphasized.

The need for maximum production of food this year and extra help for harvesting crops is stressed as well as the continued cooperation of Victory Gardeners and home canners. Some of our current food shortages are world-wide and for these the situation cannot improve greatly until world supplies improve. "Others will improve in the next few months and more rapidly after that as we begin to get the accumulated effects of reductions in the size of our armed forces. Others will continue to some extent because of the necessity of supplying food to war-ravaged areas of the world in the interest of building a sound and lasting peace," the Secretary stated.

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CONTINUED SALVAGE OF FAT for use in soaps will be dramatized on CONSUMER TIME show September 1. The need for saving tin and paper as usual will also be explained. On September 8, the school lunch program will be featured on this broadcast.

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PICK-UP FROM USDA. . . .Through a special five-minute pick-up, USDA specialists will answer questions as a feature of "Everybody's Farm" program on Station WLW at Cincinnati, each Saturday, beginning August 25, at 12:30 p.m., EWT.

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